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NOTE CHANGES MADE BY THE COURT

JS-6

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BLACKROCK SERVICES, INC., et
al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 8:25-cv-00363-HDV-ADS

~~[proposed]~~ STIPULATED FINAL
ORDER FOR PERMANENT
INJUNCTION, MONETARY
JUDGMENT, AND OTHER
RELIEF

Plaintiff, the Federal Trade Commission (“FTC”), filed its Complaint for Permanent Injunction, Monetary Judgment, and Other Relief on February 24, 2025 (ECF No. 1) (“Complaint”), for a permanent injunction, monetary relief, and other relief in this matter pursuant to Sections 13(b) and 19 of the Federal Trade

Commission Act (“FTC Act”), 15 U.S.C. §§ 53(b) and 57b, Section 814 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (“FDCPA”), 15 U.S.C. § 1692l(a), Section 5581(b)(5)(C)(ii) of the Consumer Financial Protection Act, 12 U.S.C. § 5581(b)(5)(C)(ii), and Section 522(a) of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (“GLB Act”), 15 U.S.C. § 6822(a). On February 27, 2025, on motion by the FTC, the Court entered an *ex parte* temporary restraining order with asset freeze, appointment of a receiver, and other equitable relief against Defendants (“TRO”). (ECF No. 22.) On March 18, 2025, the Court entered a Stipulated Preliminary Injunction against Defendants. (ECF No. 41.)

Now, the FTC, Defendants, and the Court-appointed Receiver, by and through their undersigned counsel, have stipulated and agreed to the entry of a Stipulated Final Order for Permanent Injunction, Monetary Judgment, and Other Relief (“Order”) to resolve all matters in dispute in this action between them. A proposed order has been filed herewith.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED as follows:

FINDINGS

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter.
2. The Complaint charges that Defendants participated in deceptive and unlawful acts or practices that violate (1) Section 5(a) of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. § 45(a); (2) multiple provisions of the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1692–1692p, and its associated Regulation F, 12 C.F.R. Part 1006; (3) Section 521 of the GLB Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6821, and (4) Section 461.3(a) of the FTC’s Trade Regulation Rule on Impersonation of Government and Businesses (“Impersonation Rule”), 16 C.F.R. Part 461.3(b), in connection with Defendants’ collection and attempted collection of purported debts.
3. Defendants neither admit nor deny any of the allegations in the Complaint, except as specifically stated in this Order. Only for purposes of this

1 action, Defendants admit the facts necessary to establish jurisdiction.

2 4. Defendants waive any claim that they may have under the Equal
3 Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412, concerning the prosecution of this action
4 through the date of this Order, and agree to bear their own costs and attorney fees.

5 5. Defendants and the FTC waive all rights to appeal or otherwise
6 challenge or contest the validity of this Order.

7 6. Entry of this Order is in the public interest.

8 **DEFINITIONS**

9 For purposes of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

10 A. **“Asset”** means any legal or equitable interest in, right to, or claim to,
11 any property, wherever located and by whomever held.

12 B. **“Consumer”** means any Person.

13 C. **“Corporate Defendants”** means Blackrock Services, Inc., Liberty
14 Credit Management, Inc., Civil Complaint Administration, Pacific
15 Billing Solutions, and Cornerstone Legal Group, LLC, and each of their
16 d/b/a’s, subsidiaries, affiliates, successors, and assigns.

17 D. **“Debt”** means any obligation or alleged obligation to pay money arising
18 out of a transaction, whether or not such obligation has been reduced to
19 judgment.

20 E. **“Debt Collection Activity”** means any activity of a Debt Collector to
21 collect or attempt to collect, directly or indirectly, a Debt owed or due or
22 asserted to be owed or due.

23 F. **“Debt Collector”** means any Person who uses any instrumentality of
24 interstate commerce or the mail in any business the principal purpose of
25 which is the collection of Debts, or who regularly collects or attempts to
26 collect, directly or indirectly, Debts owed or due, or asserted to be owed
27 or due, to another. The term also includes any creditor who, in the
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process of collecting its own Debts, uses any name other than its own which would indicate that a third Person is collecting or attempting to collect such Debts. The term also includes any Person to the extent such Person collects or attempts to collect any Debt that was in default at the time it was obtained by such Person.

G. **“Defendants”** means Corporate Defendants and Individual Defendants, individually, collectively, or in any combination.

H. **“Individual Defendants”** means Ryan Evans and Mitchell Evans.

I. **“Person”** means a natural person, an organization or other legal entity, including a corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, limited liability company, association, cooperative, or any other group or combination acting as an entity.

J. **“Receiver”** means Thomas McNamara.

K. **“Receivership Entities”** means Corporate Defendants as well as any other entity that has conducted any business related to Defendants’ Debt Collection Activities or related business activities, including receipt of Assets derived from any activity that is the subject of the Complaint in this matter, and that the Receiver determines is controlled or owned by any Defendant, including but not limited to, Affiliated Billing Solutions, Inc.

ORDER

I. BAN ON DEBT COLLECTION AND DEBT BROKERING ACTIVITIES

IT IS ORDERED that Defendants, whether acting directly or through any other Person, are permanently restrained and enjoined from:

A. Participating in Debt Collection Activities; and

B. Advertising, marketing, promoting, offering for sale, selling, or buying

1 any Consumer or commercial Debt or any information regarding a
2 Consumer relating to a Debt.

3 **II. PROHIBITION AGAINST MISREPRESENTATIONS**

4 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendants, Defendants' officers,
5 agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or
6 participation with them, who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service
7 or otherwise, whether acting directly or indirectly, in connection with the
8 advertising, marketing, promoting, or offering for sale of any goods or services, are
9 permanently restrained and enjoined from misrepresenting or assisting others in
10 misrepresenting, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication:

- 11 A. That any Consumer has a legal obligation to pay Defendants or any
12 other Person;
- 13 B. That any Consumer is delinquent on a payday loan or other Debt or
14 related amount;
- 15 C. That nonpayment of a Debt will result in a Consumer's arrest, criminal
16 prosecution, criminal conviction, or imprisonment;
- 17 D. That nonpayment of a Debt will result in civil litigation against a
18 Consumer, or in the seizure, garnishment, or attachment of a
19 Consumer's property or wages;
- 20 E. That any Defendant or any other person has taken, intends to take, or has
21 authority to take formal legal action against a Consumer who fails to pay
22 any Debt;
- 23 F. The character, amount, or legal status of a Debt;
- 24 G. That any Person is an attorney or law firm or affiliated or associated
25 with an attorney or law firm;
- 26 H. That a Consumer's outstanding debt has been or will be reported to the
27 credit bureaus, or that Defendants will have a Consumer's outstanding
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1 debt deleted from the Consumer's credit bureau report; and

- 2 I. Any fact material to Consumers concerning any good or service, such
3 as: the total costs; any material restrictions, limitations, or conditions; or
4 any material aspect of its performance, efficacy, nature, or central
5 characteristics.

6 **III. INJUNCTION RELATING TO CONSUMER FINANCIAL**
7 **INFORMATION**

8 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendants, Defendants' officers,
9 agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or
10 participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether
11 acting directly or indirectly, are hereby permanently restrained and enjoined from:

- 12 A. Making any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation to
13 any Person to obtain or attempt to obtain information of a Consumer,
14 including, but not limited to, credit or debit card numbers, bank account
15 numbers and routing numbers, and consumer credit reports;
16 B. Violating the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 6801-6809, §§
17 6821-6827, a copy of which is attached as **Attachment A**.

18 **IV. INJUNCTION RELATING TO IMPERSONATING ANY BUSINESS**
19 **OR PERSON**

20 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendants, Defendants' officers,
21 agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or
22 participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, whether
23 acting directly or indirectly, are hereby permanently restrained and enjoined from:

- 24 A. Falsely posing as, directly or by implication, any Person, including any
25 attorney or law firm;
26 B. Misrepresenting or assisting others in misrepresenting, expressly or by
27 implication, that any Person is affiliated with, endorsed, sponsored by,
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1 or approved by, or otherwise connected to any other Person; and

2 C. Violating the FTC's Impersonation Rule, 16 C.F.R. Part 461, a copy of
3 which is attached as **Attachment B**.

4 **V. CONTINUATION OF RECEIVERSHIP**

5 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Thomas McNamara shall continue as a
6 permanent receiver over the Receivership Entities with full powers of a permanent
7 receiver, including but not limited to those powers set forth in the Stipulated
8 Preliminary Injunction entered on March 18, 2025 ([ECF No. 41](#)), and including
9 full liquidation powers. The Receiver is directed to wind up the Receivership
10 Entities and liquidate all assets within 365 days after entry of this Order. Any
11 party or the Receiver may request that the Court extend the Receiver's term for
12 good cause. Upon termination of the receivership and final payment to the
13 Receiver of all approved fees, costs, and expenses, the Receiver shall turn over to
14 the FTC or its designated agent all remaining assets in the receivership estate.

15 **VI. MONETARY JUDGMENT AND PARTIAL SUSPENSION**

16 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that:

17 A. Judgment in the amount of EIGHT MILLION, TWO HUNDRED AND
18 FIFTY-FOUR THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHT
19 Dollars (\$8,254,368) is entered in favor of the FTC against Defendants,
20 jointly and severally, as monetary relief pursuant to Section 19 of the FTC
21 Act, [15 U.S.C. § 57b](#), for Defendants' violations of the FDCPA,
22 Regulation F, Section 521(a) of the GLB Act, and the Impersonation
23 Rule.

24 B. In partial satisfaction of the judgment set forth in Section VI.A:

25 1. All financial or other institutions holding accounts in the name of, on
26 behalf of, or for the benefit of, any Receivership Entity shall, within
27 ten (10) business days of receipt of a copy of this Order, transfer to
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1 the Receiver or his designated agent all funds, if any, in such
2 accounts, including, but not limited to:

3 a. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., shall within 10 business days of
4 receipt of a copy of this Order, transfer to the Receiver all funds, if
5 any, in (a) account number xxxx1351 in the name of Blackrock
6 Services, Inc.; (b) account number xxxx0111 in the name of Ryan
7 Evans d/b/a Civil Complaint Services; (c) account number
8 xxxx5527 in the name of Ryan Evans d/b/a Cornerstone Legal
9 Group; and (d) account number xxxx5173 in the name of Ryan
10 Evans d/b/a Pacific Legal Group; and

11 b. Bank of America, N.A., shall within 10 business days of receipt of
12 a copy of this Order, transfer to the Receiver all funds, if any, in
13 account number xxxx2390 in the name of Affiliated Billing
14 Solutions.

15 2. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., shall within 10 business days of receipt
16 of a copy of this Order, transfer to the Receiver all funds, if any, in
17 account number xxxx6735 in the name of Defendant Mitchell Evans.
18 Upon such transfer, the funds shall be an asset of the receivership
19 estate, to be governed by Section V of this Order;

20 3. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., shall within 10 business days of receipt of a
21 copy of this Order, transfer to the Receiver all funds, if any, in (a)
22 account number xxxx0059 in the name of Defendant Mitchell Evans;
23 (b) account number xxxx0128 in the name of Defendant Mitchell
24 Evans; (c) account number xxxx4470 in the name of Defendant
25 Mitchell Evans; and (d) account number xxxx5496 in the name of
26 Defendant Mitchell Evans. Upon such transfer, the funds shall be an
27 asset of the receivership estate, to be governed by Section V of this
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Order;

4. Morgan Stanley, shall within 10 business days of receipt of a copy of this Order, transfer to the Receiver all funds, if any, in E-Trade account number xxxx5563 in the name of Defendant Ryan Evans. Upon such transfer, the funds shall be an asset of the receivership estate, to be governed by Section V of this Order;
 5. The Vanguard Group, Inc., shall within 10 business days of receipt of a copy of this Order, transfer to the Receiver all funds, if any, in (a) account number xxxx0646 in the name of Defendant Mitchell Evans; and (b) account number xxxx2525 in the name of Defendant Mitchell Evans. Upon such transfer, the funds shall be an asset of the receivership estate, to be governed by Section V of this Order;
 6. Stripe, Inc., shall within 10 business days of receipt of a copy of this Order, transfer to the Receiver all funds, if any, in (a) account number xxxxDWoq in the name of OC Billing Solutions d/b/a Liberty Billing Solutions; and (b) account number xxxxiimW in the name of Pacific Billing Solutions d/b/a www.civilcomplaint.org. Upon such transfer, the funds shall be an asset of the receivership estate, to be governed by Section V of this Order;
 7. Defendant Ryan Evans shall, within one hundred and eighty (180) days after the date of entry of this Order, transfer to the FTC or its designated agent cash in the amount of \$80,000.
- C. Upon completion of the asset transfers set forth in Sections VI.B of this Order, the remainder of the judgment is suspended, subject to Subsections E, F, and G below.
- D. The asset freeze is modified to permit the transfers and liquidations identified in this Section. Upon completion of those transfers and

liquidations, the asset freeze as to Defendants is dissolved.

E. The FTC's agreement to the suspension of part of the judgment is expressly premised upon the truthfulness, accuracy, and completeness of Defendants' sworn financial statements and related documents (collectively, "financial representations") submitted to the FTC, namely: (i) the Financial Statement of Corporate Defendant Blackrock Services Inc. signed by Ryan Evans on March 15, 2025, including the attachments, (ii) the Financial Statement of Corporate Defendant Civil Complaint Administration signed by Ryan Evans on March 13, 2025, including the attachments, (iii) the Financial Statement of Corporate Defendant Cornerstone Legal Group Inc. signed by Ryan Evans on March 15, 2025, including the attachments, (iv) the Financial Statement of Corporate Defendant Liberty Credit Management Inc. signed by Ryan Evans on March 13, 2025, including the attachments, (v) the Financial Statement of Corporate Defendant Affiliated Billing Solutions Inc. signed by Ryan Evans on March 13, 2025, including the attachments, (vi) the Financial Statement of Individual Defendant Ryan Evans signed on March 13, 2025, and (vii) the Financial Statement of Individual Defendant Mitchell Evans signed on March 3, 2025, including the attachments.

F. The suspension of the judgment will be lifted as to a Defendant if, upon motion by the FTC, the Court finds that such Defendant failed to disclose any material asset, materially misstated the value of any asset, or made any other material misstatement or omission in the financial representations identified above.

G. If the suspension of the judgment is lifted, the judgment becomes immediately due as to that Defendant in the amount specified in

Subsection VI.A above (which the parties stipulate, only for purposes of this Section, represents the consumer injury alleged in the Complaint), less any payment previously made pursuant to this Section, plus interest computed from the date of entry of this Order.

- H. Defendants relinquish dominion and all legal and equitable right, title, and interest in all assets transferred pursuant to this Order and may not seek the return of any assets.
- I. The facts alleged in the Complaint will be taken as true, without further proof, in any subsequent civil litigation by or on behalf of the FTC, including in a proceeding to enforce its rights to any payment or monetary judgment pursuant to Section VI.A of this Order, such as a nondischargeability complaint in any bankruptcy case.
- J. The facts alleged in the Complaint establish all elements necessary to sustain an action by the FTC pursuant to Section 523(a)(2)(A) of the Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2)(A), and this Order will have collateral estoppel effect for such purposes.
- K. Defendants acknowledge that their Taxpayer Identification Numbers (Social Security Number or Employer Identification Number), which Defendants previously submitted to the FTC, may be used for collecting and reporting on any delinquent amount arising out of this Order, in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 7701.
- L. All money received by the FTC pursuant to this Order may be deposited into a fund administered by the FTC or its designee to be used for consumer relief, such as redress and any attendant expenses for the administration of any redress fund. If a representative of the FTC decides that direct redress to consumers is wholly or partially impracticable or

1 money remains after such redress is completed, the FTC may apply any
2 remaining money for such related relief (including consumer information
3 remedies) as it determines to be reasonably related to Defendants'
4 practices alleged in the Complaint. Any money not used for such relief is
5 to be deposited to the U.S. Treasury. Defendants have no right to
6 challenge any actions the FTC or its representatives may take pursuant to
7 this Subsection.

8 **VII. CUSTOMER INFORMATION**

9 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendants, Defendants' officers,
10 agents, employees, and attorneys, and all other persons in active concert or
11 participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order are
12 permanently restrained and enjoined from directly or indirectly:

- 13 A. Failing to provide sufficient customer information to enable the FTC to
14 efficiently administer consumer redress. If a representative of the FTC
15 requests in writing any information related to redress, Defendants must
16 provide it, in the form prescribed by the FTC, within 14 days;
- 17 B. Disclosing, using, or benefitting from customer information, including the
18 name, address, telephone number, email address, social security number,
19 other identifying information, or any data that enables access to a
20 customer's account (including a credit card, bank account, or other
21 financial account), that Defendants obtained prior to entry of this Order in
22 connection with the collection or attempted collection of purported Debts;
23 and
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- 25 C. Failing to destroy such customer information in all forms in their
26 possession, custody, or control within 30 days after receipt of written
27 direction to do so from a representative of the FTC.
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Provided, however, that customer information need not be disposed of, and may be disclosed, to the extent requested by a government agency or required by law, regulation, or court order.

VIII. COOPERATION

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants must fully cooperate with representatives of the Commission in this case and in any investigation related to or associated with the transactions or the occurrences that are the subject of the Complaint. Defendants must provide truthful and complete information, evidence, and testimony. Individual Defendants must appear and Corporate Defendants must cause Defendants' officers, employees, representatives, or agents to appear for interviews, discovery, hearings, trials, and any other proceedings that a Commission representative may reasonably request upon 10 days written notice, or other reasonable notice, at such places and times as a Commission representative may designate, without the service of a subpoena.

IX. ORDER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendants obtain acknowledgments of receipt of this Order:

- A. Each Defendant, within 7 days of entry of this Order, must submit to the FTC an acknowledgment of receipt of this Order sworn under penalty of perjury.
- B. For 5 years after entry of this Order, each Individual Defendant for any business that such Defendant, individually or collectively with any other Defendants, is the majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, and Corporate Defendant must deliver a copy of this Order to: (1) all principals, officers, directors, and LLC managers and members; (2) all employees having managerial responsibilities for conduct specified in

1 Sections I–IV and all agents and representatives who participate in
2 conduct specified in Sections I–IV; and (3) any business entity resulting
3 from any change in structure as set forth in the Section titled Compliance
4 Reporting. Delivery must occur within 7 days of entry of this Order for
5 current personnel. For all others, delivery must occur before they assume
6 their responsibilities.

- 7 C. From each individual or entity to which a Defendant delivered a copy of
8 this Order, such Defendant must obtain, within 30 days, a signed and
9 dated acknowledgment of receipt of this Order.

10 **X. COMPLIANCE REPORTING**

11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that each Defendant make timely
12 submissions to the FTC:

- 13 A. One year after entry of this Order, each Defendant must submit a
14 compliance report, sworn under penalty of perjury:
- 15 1. Each Defendant must: (a) identify the primary physical, postal, and
16 email address and telephone number, as designated points of contact,
17 which representatives of the FTC may use to communicate with such
18 Defendant; (b) identify all of such Defendant’s businesses by all of
19 their names, telephone numbers, and physical, postal, email, and
20 Internet addresses; (c) describe the activities of each business,
21 including the goods and services offered, the means of advertising,
22 marketing, and sales, and the involvement of any other Defendant
23 (which Individual Defendants must describe if they know or should
24 know due to their own involvement); (d) describe in detail whether
25 and how such Defendant is in compliance with each Section of this
26 Order; and (e) provide a copy of each Order Acknowledgment
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1 obtained pursuant to this Order, unless previously submitted to the
2 FTC.

- 3 2. Additionally, Individual Defendants must: (a) identify all telephone
4 numbers and all physical, postal, email and Internet addresses,
5 including all residences; (b) identify all business activities, including
6 any business for which Individual Defendants performs services
7 whether as an employee or otherwise and any entity in which
8 Individual Defendants have any ownership interest; and (c) describe
9 in detail Individual Defendants' involvement in each such business,
10 including title, role, responsibilities, participation, authority, control,
11 and any ownership.

12
13 B. For 10 years after entry of this Order, each Defendant must submit a
14 compliance notice, sworn under penalty of perjury, within 14 days of any
15 change in the following:

- 16 1. Each Defendant must report any change in: (a) any designated point
17 of contact; or (b) the structure of Corporate Defendants or any entity
18 that such Defendant has any ownership interest in or controls directly
19 or indirectly that may affect compliance obligations arising under this
20 Order, including: creation, merger, sale, or dissolution of the entity or
21 any subsidiary, parent, or affiliate that engages in any acts or practices
22 subject to this Order.
- 23 2. Additionally, Individual Defendants must report any change in: (a)
24 name, including aliases or fictitious name, or residence address; or (b)
25 title or role in any business activity, including any business for which
26 Individual Defendants perform services whether as an employee or
27 otherwise and any entity in which Individual Defendants have any
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1 ownership interest, and identify the name, physical address, and any
2 Internet address of the business or entity.

- 3 C. Each Defendant must submit to the FTC notice of the filing of any
4 bankruptcy petition, insolvency proceeding, or similar proceeding by or
5 against such Defendant within 14 days of its filing.
- 6 D. Any submission to the FTC required by this Order to be sworn under
7 penalty of perjury must be true and accurate and comply with 28 U.S.C. §
8 1746, such as by concluding: “I declare under penalty of perjury under
9 the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and
10 correct. Executed on: _____” and supplying the date, signatory’s full
11 name, title (if applicable), and signature.
- 12 E. Unless otherwise directed by a FTC representative in writing, all
13 submissions to the FTC pursuant to this Order must be emailed to
14 DEbrief@ftc.gov or sent by overnight courier (not the U.S. Postal
15 Service) to: Associate Director for Enforcement, Bureau of Consumer
16 Protection, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
17 Washington, DC 20580. The subject line must begin: FTC v. Blackrock
18 Services, Inc., Matter No. X250024.

20 XI. RECORDKEEPING

21 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that each Defendant must create certain
22 records for 10 years after entry of the Order, and retain each such record for 5
23 years. Specifically, Corporate Defendants and Individual Defendants, for any
24 business that any Individual Defendant, individually or collectively with any other
25 Defendants, is a majority owner or controls directly or indirectly, must create and
26 retain the following records:

- 27 A. accounting records showing the revenues from all goods or services sold;
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- 1 B. personnel records showing, for each person providing services, whether
- 2 as an employee or otherwise, that person's: name; addresses; telephone
- 3 numbers; job title or position; dates of service; and (if applicable) the
- 4 reason for termination;
- 5 C. records of all consumer complaints and refund requests, whether received
- 6 directly or indirectly, such as through a third party, and any response;
- 7 D. all records necessary to demonstrate full compliance with each provision
- 8 of this Order, including all submissions to the FTC; and
- 9 E. a copy of each unique advertisement or other marketing material.

10 XII. COMPLIANCE MONITORING

11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, for the purpose of monitoring
12 Defendants' compliance with this Order, including the financial representations
13 upon which part of the judgment was suspended and any failure to transfer any
14 assets as required by this Order:

- 15 A. Within 14 days of receipt of a written request from a representative of the
- 16 FTC, each Defendant must submit additional compliance reports or other
- 17 requested information, which must be sworn under penalty of perjury;
- 18 appear for depositions; and produce documents for inspection and
- 19 copying. The FTC is also authorized to obtain discovery, without further
- 20 leave of court, using any of the procedures prescribed by Federal Rules of
- 21 Civil Procedure 29, 30 (including depositions by remote means), 31, 33,
- 22 34, 36, 45, and 69.
- 23 B. For matters concerning this Order, the FTC is authorized to communicate
- 24 directly with Defendants. Defendants must permit representatives of the
- 25 FTC to interview any employee or other person affiliated with Defendants
- 26 who has agreed to such an interview. The person interviewed may have
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1 counsel present.

2 C. The FTC may use all other lawful means, including posing, through its
3 representatives as consumers, suppliers, or other individuals or entities, to
4 Defendants or any individual or entity affiliated with Defendants, without
5 the necessity of identification or prior notice. Nothing in this Order limits
6 the FTC's lawful use of compulsory process, pursuant to Sections 9 and
7 20 of the FTC Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 49, 57b-1.

8 D. Upon written request from a representative of the FTC, any consumer
9 reporting agency must furnish consumer reports concerning Individual
10 Defendants, pursuant to Section 604(1) of the Fair Credit Reporting Act,
11 15 U.S.C. §1681b(a)(1).

12 **XIII. RETENTION OF JURISDICTION**

13 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this Court retains jurisdiction of this
14 matter for purposes of construction, modification, and enforcement of this Order.

15 The Court administratively closes the case.

16 **SO ORDERED** this 18 day of June, 2025.

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20 Honorable Hernán D. Vera
21 United States District Judge
22 Central District of California
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ATTACHMENT A
COPY OF
THE GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT
15 U.S.C. §§ 6801-6809, 6821-6827

15 USC Ch. 94: PRIVACY

From Title 15—COMMERCE AND TRADE

CHAPTER 94—PRIVACY

SUBCHAPTER I—DISCLOSURE OF NONPUBLIC PERSONAL INFORMATION

Sec.	
6801.	Protection of nonpublic personal information.
6802.	Obligations with respect to disclosures of personal information.
6803.	Disclosure of institution privacy policy.
6804.	Rulemaking.
6805.	Enforcement.
6806.	Relation to other provisions.
6807.	Relation to State laws.
6808.	Study of information sharing among financial affiliates.
6809.	Definitions.

SUBCHAPTER II—FRAUDULENT ACCESS TO FINANCIAL INFORMATION

6821.	Privacy protection for customer information of financial institutions.
6822.	Administrative enforcement.
6823.	Criminal penalty.
6824.	Relation to State laws.
6825.	Agency guidance.
6826.	Reports.
6827.	Definitions.

SUBCHAPTER I—DISCLOSURE OF NONPUBLIC PERSONAL INFORMATION

§6801. Protection of nonpublic personal information

(a) Privacy obligation policy

It is the policy of the Congress that each financial institution has an affirmative and continuing obligation to respect the privacy of its customers and to protect the security and confidentiality of those customers' nonpublic personal information.

(b) Financial institutions safeguards

In furtherance of the policy in subsection (a), each agency or authority described in section 6805(a) of this title, other than the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, shall establish appropriate standards for the financial institutions subject to their jurisdiction relating to administrative, technical, and physical safeguards—

- (1) to insure the security and confidentiality of customer records and information;
- (2) to protect against any anticipated threats or hazards to the security or integrity of such records; and
- (3) to protect against unauthorized access to or use of such records or information which could result in substantial harm or inconvenience to any customer.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §501, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1436; Pub. L. 111–203, title X, §1093(1), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2095.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 111–203 inserted ", other than the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection," after "section 6805(a) of this title" in introductory provisions.

STATUTORY NOTES AND RELATED SUBSIDIARIES

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1100H of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 552a of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §510, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1445, provided that: "This subtitle [subtitle A (§§501–510) of title V of Pub. L. 106–102, enacting this subchapter and amending section 1681s of this title] shall take effect 6 months after the date on which rules are required to be prescribed under section 504(a)(3) [15 U.S.C. 6804(a)(3)], except—

"(1) to the extent that a later date is specified in the rules prescribed under section 504; and

"(2) that sections 504 [15 U.S.C. 6804] and 506 [enacting section 6806 of this title and amending section 1681s of this title] shall be effective upon enactment [Nov. 12, 1999]."

§6802. Obligations with respect to disclosures of personal information**(a) Notice requirements**

Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, a financial institution may not, directly or through any affiliate, disclose to a nonaffiliated third party any nonpublic personal information, unless such financial institution provides or has provided to the consumer a notice that complies with section 6803 of this title.

(b) Opt out**(1) In general**

A financial institution may not disclose nonpublic personal information to a nonaffiliated third party unless—

(A) such financial institution clearly and conspicuously discloses to the consumer, in writing or in electronic form or other form permitted by the regulations prescribed under section 6804 of this title, that such information may be disclosed to such third party;

(B) the consumer is given the opportunity, before the time that such information is initially disclosed, to direct that such information not be disclosed to such third party; and

(C) the consumer is given an explanation of how the consumer can exercise that nondisclosure option.

(2) Exception

This subsection shall not prevent a financial institution from providing nonpublic personal information to a nonaffiliated third party to perform services for or functions on behalf of the financial institution, including marketing of the financial institution's own products or services, or financial products or services offered pursuant to joint agreements between two or more financial institutions that comply with the requirements imposed by the regulations prescribed under section 6804 of this title, if the financial institution fully discloses the providing of such information and enters into a contractual agreement with the third party that requires the third party to maintain the confidentiality of such information.

(c) Limits on reuse of information

Except as otherwise provided in this subchapter, a nonaffiliated third party that receives from a financial institution nonpublic personal information under this section shall not, directly or through an affiliate of such receiving third party, disclose such information to any other person that is a nonaffiliated third party of both the financial institution and such receiving third party, unless such disclosure would be lawful if made directly to such other person by the financial institution.

(d) Limitations on the sharing of account number information for marketing purposes

A financial institution shall not disclose, other than to a consumer reporting agency, an account number or similar form of access number or access code for a credit card account, deposit account, or transaction account of a consumer to any nonaffiliated third party for use in telemarketing, direct mail marketing, or other marketing through electronic mail to the consumer.

(e) General exceptions

Subsections (a) and (b) shall not prohibit the disclosure of nonpublic personal information—

(1) as necessary to effect, administer, or enforce a transaction requested or authorized by the consumer, or in connection with—

(A) servicing or processing a financial product or service requested or authorized by the consumer;

(B) maintaining or servicing the consumer's account with the financial institution, or with another entity as part of a private label credit card program or other extension of credit on behalf of such entity; or

(C) a proposed or actual securitization, secondary market sale (including sales of servicing rights), or similar transaction related to a transaction of the consumer;

(2) with the consent or at the direction of the consumer;

(3)(A) to protect the confidentiality or security of the financial institution's records pertaining to the consumer, the service or product, or the transaction therein; (B) to protect against or prevent actual or potential fraud, unauthorized transactions, claims, or other liability; (C) for required institutional risk control, or for resolving customer disputes or inquiries; (D) to persons holding a legal or beneficial interest relating to the consumer; or (E) to persons acting in a fiduciary or representative capacity on behalf of the consumer;

(4) to provide information to insurance rate advisory organizations, guaranty funds or agencies, applicable rating agencies of the financial institution, persons assessing the institution's compliance with industry standards, and the institution's attorneys, accountants, and auditors;

(5) to the extent specifically permitted or required under other provisions of law and in accordance with the Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978 [12 U.S.C. 3401 et seq.], to law enforcement agencies (including the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection¹ a Federal functional regulator, the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, and chapter 2 of title I of Public Law 91–508 (12 U.S.C. 1951–1959), a State insurance authority, or the Federal Trade Commission), self-regulatory organizations, or for an investigation on a matter related to public safety;

(6)(A) to a consumer reporting agency in accordance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act [15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.], or (B) from a consumer report reported by a consumer reporting agency;

(7) in connection with a proposed or actual sale, merger, transfer, or exchange of all or a portion of a business or operating unit if the disclosure of nonpublic personal information concerns solely consumers of such business or unit; or

(8) to comply with Federal, State, or local laws, rules, and other applicable legal requirements; to comply with a properly authorized civil, criminal, or regulatory investigation or subpoena or summons by Federal, State, or local authorities; or to respond to judicial process or government regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over the financial institution for examination, compliance, or other purposes as authorized by law.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §502, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1437; Pub. L. 111–203, title X, §1093(2), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2095.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (c), was in the original "this subtitle", meaning subtitle A (§§501–510) of title V of Pub. L. 106–102, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1436, which is classified principally to this subchapter. For complete classification of subtitle A to the Code, see Tables.

The Right to Financial Privacy Act of 1978, referred to in subsec. (e)(5), is title XI of Pub. L. 95–630, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3697, which is classified generally to chapter 35 (§3401 et seq.) of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 3401 of Title 12 and Tables.

Chapter 2 of title I of Public Law 91–508, referred to in subsec. (e)(5), is chapter 2 (§§121–129) of title I of Pub. L. 91–508, Oct. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 1116, which is classified generally to chapter 21 (§1951 et seq.) of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of chapter 2 to the Code, see Tables.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act, referred to in subsec. (e)(6)(A), is title VI of Pub. L. 90–321, as added by Pub. L. 91–508, title VI, §601, Oct. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 1127, which is classified generally to subchapter III (§1681 et seq.) of chapter 41 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (e)(5). Pub. L. 111–203 inserted "the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection" after " (including)".

STATUTORY NOTES AND RELATED SUBSIDIARIES

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1100H of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 552a of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

¹ *So in original. Probably should be followed by a comma.*

§6803. Disclosure of institution privacy policy

(a) Disclosure required

At the time of establishing a customer relationship with a consumer and not less than annually during the continuation of such relationship, a financial institution shall provide a clear and conspicuous disclosure to such consumer, in writing or in electronic form or other form permitted by the regulations prescribed under section 6804 of this title, of such financial institution's policies and practices with respect to—

- (1) disclosing nonpublic personal information to affiliates and nonaffiliated third parties, consistent with section 6802 of this title, including the categories of information that may be disclosed;
- (2) disclosing nonpublic personal information of persons who have ceased to be customers of the financial institution; and
- (3) protecting the nonpublic personal information of consumers.

(b) Regulations

Disclosures required by subsection (a) shall be made in accordance with the regulations prescribed under section 6804 of this title.

(c) Information to be included

The disclosure required by subsection (a) shall include—

- (1) the policies and practices of the institution with respect to disclosing nonpublic personal information to nonaffiliated third parties, other than agents of the institution, consistent with section 6802 of this title, and including

- (A) the categories of persons to whom the information is or may be disclosed, other than the persons to whom the information may be provided pursuant to section 6802(e) of this title; and
 - (B) the policies and practices of the institution with respect to disclosing of nonpublic personal information of persons who have ceased to be customers of the financial institution;

- (2) the categories of nonpublic personal information that are collected by the financial institution;
- (3) the policies that the institution maintains to protect the confidentiality and security of nonpublic personal information in accordance with section 6801 of this title; and
- (4) the disclosures required, if any, under section 1681a(d)(2)(A)(iii) of this title.

(d) Exemption for certified public accountants

(1) In general

The disclosure requirements of subsection (a) do not apply to any person, to the extent that the person is—

- (A) a certified public accountant;
- (B) certified or licensed for such purpose by a State; and
- (C) subject to any provision of law, rule, or regulation issued by a legislative or regulatory body of the State, including rules of professional conduct or ethics, that prohibits disclosure of nonpublic personal information without the knowing and expressed consent of the consumer.

(2) Limitation

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to exempt or otherwise exclude any financial institution that is affiliated or becomes affiliated with a certified public accountant described in paragraph (1) from any provision of this section.

(3) Definitions

For purposes of this subsection, the term "State" means any State or territory of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Virgin Islands, or the Northern Mariana Islands.

(e) Model forms

(1) In general

The agencies referred to in section 6804(a)(1) of this title shall jointly develop a model form which may be used, at the option of the financial institution, for the provision of disclosures under this section.

(2) Format

A model form developed under paragraph (1) shall—

- (A) be comprehensible to consumers, with a clear format and design;
- (B) provide for clear and conspicuous disclosures;
- (C) enable consumers easily to identify the sharing practices of a financial institution and to compare privacy practices among financial institutions; and
- (D) be succinct, and use an easily readable type font.

(3) Timing

A model form required to be developed by this subsection shall be issued in proposed form for public comment not later than 180 days after October 13, 2006.

(4) Safe harbor

Any financial institution that elects to provide the model form developed by the agencies under this subsection shall be deemed to be in compliance with the disclosures required under this section.

(f) Exception to annual notice requirement

A financial institution that—

(1) provides nonpublic personal information only in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b)(2) or (e) of section 6802 of this title or regulations prescribed under section 6804(b) of this title, and

(2) has not changed its policies and practices with regard to disclosing nonpublic personal information from the policies and practices that were disclosed in the most recent disclosure sent to consumers in accordance with this section,

shall not be required to provide an annual disclosure under this section until such time as the financial institution fails to comply with any criteria described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §503, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1439; Pub. L. 109–351, title VI, §609, title VII, §728, Oct. 13, 2006, 120 Stat. 1983, 2003; Pub. L. 114–94, div. G, title LXXV, §75001, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1787.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (f). Pub. L. 114–94 added subsec. (f).

2006—Pub. L. 109–351 designated concluding provisions of subsec. (a) as (b), inserted heading, substituted "Disclosures required by subsection (a)" for "Such disclosures", redesignated former subsec. (b) as (c), and added subsecs. (d) and (e).

EXECUTIVE DOCUMENTS

TERMINATION OF TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

For termination of Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, see note set out preceding section 1681 of Title 48, Territories and Insular Possessions.

§6804. Rulemaking

(a) Regulatory authority

(1) Rulemaking

(A) In general

Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Securities and Exchange Commission shall have authority to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter with respect to financial institutions and other persons subject to their respective jurisdiction under section 6805 of this title (and notwithstanding subtitle B of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 [12 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.]), except that the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall not have authority to prescribe regulations with respect to the standards under section 6801 of this title.

(B) CFTC

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall have authority to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter with respect to financial institutions and other persons subject to the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission under section 7b–2 of title 7.

(C) Federal Trade Commission authority

Notwithstanding the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection under subparagraph (A), the Federal Trade Commission shall have authority to prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this subchapter with respect to any financial institution that is a person described in section 1029(a) of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 [12 U.S.C. 5519(a)].

(D) Rule of construction

Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to alter, affect, or otherwise limit the authority of a State insurance authority to adopt regulations to carry out this subchapter.

(2) Coordination, consistency, and comparability

Each of the agencies authorized under paragraph (1) to prescribe regulations shall consult and coordinate with the other such agencies and, as appropriate, and with ¹ representatives of State insurance authorities designated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, for the purpose of assuring, to the extent possible, that the regulations prescribed by each such agency are consistent and comparable with the regulations prescribed by the other such agencies.

(3) Procedures and deadline

Such regulations shall be prescribed in accordance with applicable requirements of title 5.

(b) Authority to grant exceptions

The regulations prescribed under subsection (a) may include such additional exceptions to subsections (a) through (d) of section 6802 of this title as are deemed consistent with the purposes of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §504, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1439; Pub. L. 111–203, title X, §1093(3), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2095.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in subsecs. (a)(1) and (b), was in the original "this subtitle", meaning subtitle A (§§501–510) of title V of Pub. L. 106–102, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1436, which is classified principally to this subchapter. For complete classification of subtitle A to the Code, see Tables.

The Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(A), is title X of Pub. L. 111–203, July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 1955. Subtitle B (§§1021–1029A) of the Act is classified generally to part B (§5511 et seq.) of subchapter V of chapter 53 of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of subtitle B to the Code, see Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (a)(1), (2). Pub. L. 111–203, §1093(3)(A), added pars. (1) and (2) and struck out former pars. (1) and (2) which related, respectively, to rulemaking by the Federal banking agencies, the National Credit Union Administration, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Federal Trade Commission, and consultation and coordination among these agencies and authorities to assure consistency and comparability of regulations.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 111–203, §1093(3)(B), struck out "and shall be issued in final form not later than 6 months after November 12, 1999" after "title 5".

STATUTORY NOTES AND RELATED SUBSIDIARIES

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1100H of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 552a of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

¹ *So in original. Probably should be "and, as appropriate, with".*

§6805. Enforcement

(a) In general

Subject to subtitle B of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 [12 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.], this subchapter and the regulations prescribed thereunder shall be enforced by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Federal functional regulators, the State insurance authorities, and the Federal Trade Commission with respect to financial institutions and other persons subject to their jurisdiction under applicable law, as follows:

(1) Under section 1818 of title 12, by the appropriate Federal banking agency, as defined in section 1813(q) of title 12, in the case of—

(A) national banks, Federal branches and Federal agencies of foreign banks, and any subsidiaries of such entities (except brokers, dealers, persons providing insurance, investment companies, and investment advisers);

(B) member banks of the Federal Reserve System (other than national banks), branches and agencies of foreign banks (other than Federal branches, Federal agencies, and insured State branches of foreign banks), commercial lending companies owned or controlled by foreign banks, organizations operating under section 25 or 25A of the Federal Reserve Act [12 U.S.C. 601 et seq., 611 et seq.], and bank holding companies and their

nonbank subsidiaries or affiliates (except brokers, dealers, persons providing insurance, investment companies, and investment advisers);

(C) banks insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (other than members of the Federal Reserve System), insured State branches of foreign banks, and any subsidiaries of such entities (except brokers, dealers, persons providing insurance, investment companies, and investment advisers); and

(D) savings associations the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and any subsidiaries of such savings associations (except brokers, dealers, persons providing insurance, investment companies, and investment advisers).

(2) Under the Federal Credit Union Act [12 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.], by the Board of the National Credit Union Administration with respect to any federally insured credit union, and any subsidiaries of such an entity.

(3) Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.], by the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to any broker or dealer.

(4) Under the Investment Company Act of 1940 [15 U.S.C. 80a–1 et seq.], by the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to investment companies.

(5) Under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 [15 U.S.C. 80b–1 et seq.], by the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect to investment advisers registered with the Commission under such Act.

(6) Under State insurance law, in the case of any person engaged in providing insurance, by the applicable State insurance authority of the State in which the person is domiciled, subject to section 6701 of this title.

(7) Under the Federal Trade Commission Act [15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.], by the Federal Trade Commission for any other financial institution or other person that is not subject to the jurisdiction of any agency or authority under paragraphs (1) through (6) of this subsection.

(8) Under subtitle E of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 [12 U.S.C. 5561 et seq.], by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, in the case of any financial institution and other covered person or service provider that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Bureau and any person subject to this subchapter, but not with respect to the standards under section 6801 of this title.

(b) Enforcement of section 6801

(1) In general

Except as provided in paragraph (2), the agencies and authorities described in subsection (a), other than the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, shall implement the standards prescribed under section 6801(b) of this title in the same manner, to the extent practicable, as standards prescribed pursuant to section 1831p–1(a) of title 12 are implemented pursuant to such section.

(2) Exception

The agencies and authorities described in paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) of subsection (a) shall implement the standards prescribed under section 6801(b) of this title by rule with respect to the financial institutions and other persons subject to their respective jurisdictions under subsection (a).

(c) Absence of State action

If a State insurance authority fails to adopt regulations to carry out this subchapter, such State shall not be eligible to override, pursuant to section 1831x(g)(2)(B)(iii) of title 12, the insurance customer protection regulations prescribed by a Federal banking agency under section 1831x(a) of title 12.

(d) Definitions

The terms used in subsection (a)(1) that are not defined in this subchapter or otherwise defined in section 1813(s) of title 12 shall have the same meaning as given in section 3101 of title 12.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §505, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1440; Pub. L. 111–203, title X, §1093(4), (5), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2096, 2097.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010, referred to in subsec. (a), is title X of Pub. L. 111–203, July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 1955. Subtitles B (§§1021–1029A) and E (§§1051–1058) of the Act are classified generally to parts B (§5511 et seq.) and E (§5561 et seq.), respectively, of subchapter V of chapter 53 of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of subtitles B and E to the Code, see Tables.

This subchapter, referred to in subsecs. (a), (c), and (d), was in the original "this subtitle", meaning subtitle A (§§501–510) of title V of Pub. L. 106–102, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1436, which is classified principally to this subchapter. For complete classification of subtitle A to the Code, see Tables.

Section 25 of the Federal Reserve Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(B), is classified to subchapter I (§601 et seq.) of chapter 6 of Title 12, Banks and Banking. Section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act is classified to subchapter II (§611 et seq.) of chapter 6 of Title 12.

The Federal Credit Union Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is act June 26, 1934, ch. 750, 48 Stat. 1216, which is classified generally to chapter 14 (§1751 et seq.) of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1751 of Title 12 and Tables.

The Securities Exchange Act of 1934, referred to in subsec. (a)(3), is act June 6, 1934, ch. 404, 48 Stat. 881, which is classified principally to chapter 2B (§78a et seq.) of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 78a of this title and Tables.

The Investment Company Act of 1940, referred to in subsec. (a)(4), is title I of act Aug. 22, 1940, ch. 686, 54 Stat. 789, which is classified generally to subchapter I (§80a–1 et seq.) of chapter 2D of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 80a–51 of this title and Tables.

The Investment Advisers Act of 1940, referred to in subsec. (a)(5), is title II of act Aug. 22, 1940, ch. 686, 54 Stat. 847, which is classified generally to subchapter II (§80b–1 et seq.) of chapter 2D of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 80b–20 of this title and Tables.

The Federal Trade Commission Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(7), is act Sept. 26, 1914, ch. 311, 38 Stat. 717, which is classified generally to subchapter I (§41 et seq.) of chapter 2 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 58 of this title and Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 111–203, §1093(4)(A), substituted "Subject to subtitle B of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010, this subchapter and the regulations prescribed thereunder shall be enforced by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Federal functional regulators, the State insurance authorities, and the Federal Trade Commission with respect to financial institutions and other persons subject to their jurisdiction under applicable law, as follows:" for "This subchapter and the regulations prescribed thereunder shall be enforced by the Federal functional regulators, the State insurance authorities, and the Federal Trade Commission with respect to financial institutions and other persons subject to their jurisdiction under applicable law, as follows:".

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 111–203, §1093(4)(B)(i), inserted "by the appropriate Federal banking agency, as defined in section 1813(q) of title 12," before "in the case of—".

Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 111–203, §1093(4)(B)(ii), struck out ", by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency" before semicolon at end.

Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 111–203, §1093(4)(B)(iii), struck out ", by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System" before semicolon at end.

Subsec. (a)(1)(C). Pub. L. 111–203, §1093(4)(B)(iv), struck out ", by the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation" before "; and".

Subsec. (a)(1)(D). Pub. L. 111–203, §1093(4)(B)(v), struck out ", by the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision" before period at end.

Subsec. (a)(8). Pub. L. 111–203, §1093(4)(C), added par. (8).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 111–203, §1093(5), inserted ", other than the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection," before "shall implement the standards".

STATUTORY NOTES AND RELATED SUBSIDIARIES

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1100H of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 552a of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§6806. Relation to other provisions

Except for the amendments made by subsections (a) and (b), nothing in this chapter shall be construed to modify, limit, or supersede the operation of the Fair Credit Reporting Act [15 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.], and no inference shall be drawn on the basis of the provisions of this chapter regarding whether information is transaction or experience information under section 603 of such Act [15 U.S.C. 1681a].

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §506(c), Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1442.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Amendments made by subsections (a) and (b), referred to in text, means amendments made by section 506(a) and (b) of Pub. L. 106–102, which amended section 1681s of this title.

This chapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this title", meaning title V of Pub. L. 106–102, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1436, which enacted this chapter and amended section 1681s of this title. For complete classification of title V to the Code, see Tables.

The Fair Credit Reporting Act, referred to in text, is title VI of Pub. L. 90–321, as added by Pub. L. 91–508, title VI, §601, Oct. 26, 1970, 84 Stat. 1127, which is classified generally to subchapter III (§1681 et seq.) of chapter 41 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of this title and Tables.

§6807. Relation to State laws

(a) In general

This subchapter and the amendments made by this subchapter shall not be construed as superseding, altering, or affecting any statute, regulation, order, or interpretation in effect in any State, except to the extent that such statute, regulation, order, or interpretation is inconsistent with the provisions of this subchapter, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency.

(b) Greater protection under State law

For purposes of this section, a State statute, regulation, order, or interpretation is not inconsistent with the provisions of this subchapter if the protection such statute, regulation, order, or interpretation affords any person is greater than the protection provided under this subchapter and the amendments made by this subchapter, as determined by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, after consultation with the agency or authority with jurisdiction under section 6805(a) of this title of either the person that initiated the complaint or that is the subject of the complaint, on its own motion or upon the petition of any interested party.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §507, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1442; Pub. L. 111–203, title X, §1093(6), July 21, 2010, 124 Stat. 2097.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this subtitle", meaning subtitle A (§§501–510) of title V of Pub. L. 106–102, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1436, which is classified principally to this subchapter. For complete classification of subtitle A to the Code, see Tables.

AMENDMENTS

2010—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 111–203 substituted "Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection" for "Federal Trade Commission".

STATUTORY NOTES AND RELATED SUBSIDIARIES

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2010 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 111–203 effective on the designated transfer date, see section 1100H of Pub. L. 111–203, set out as a note under section 552a of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

§6808. Study of information sharing among financial affiliates

(a) In general

The Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the Federal functional regulators and the Federal Trade Commission, shall conduct a study of information sharing practices among financial institutions and their affiliates. Such study shall include—

- (1) the purposes for the sharing of confidential customer information with affiliates or with nonaffiliated third parties;
- (2) the extent and adequacy of security protections for such information;
- (3) the potential risks for customer privacy of such sharing of information;
- (4) the potential benefits for financial institutions and affiliates of such sharing of information;
- (5) the potential benefits for customers of such sharing of information;
- (6) the adequacy of existing laws to protect customer privacy;
- (7) the adequacy of financial institution privacy policy and privacy rights disclosure under existing law;
- (8) the feasibility of different approaches, including opt-out and opt-in, to permit customers to direct that confidential information not be shared with affiliates and nonaffiliated third parties; and

(9) the feasibility of restricting sharing of information for specific uses or of permitting customers to direct the uses for which information may be shared.

(b) Consultation

The Secretary shall consult with representatives of State insurance authorities designated by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, and also with financial services industry, consumer organizations and privacy groups, and other representatives of the general public, in formulating and conducting the study required by subsection (a).

(c) Report

On or before January 1, 2002, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress containing the findings and conclusions of the study required under subsection (a), together with such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as may be appropriate.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §508, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1442.)

§6809. Definitions

As used in this subchapter:

(1) Federal banking agency

The term "Federal banking agency" has the same meaning as given in section 1813 of title 12.

(2) Federal functional regulator

The term "Federal functional regulator" means—

- (A) the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;
- (B) the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency;
- (C) the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;
- (D) the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision;
- (E) the National Credit Union Administration Board; and
- (F) the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(3) Financial institution

(A) In general

The term "financial institution" means any institution the business of which is engaging in financial activities as described in section 1843(k) of title 12.

(B) Persons subject to CFTC regulation

Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the term "financial institution" does not include any person or entity with respect to any financial activity that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission under the Commodity Exchange Act [7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.].

(C) Farm credit institutions

Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the term "financial institution" does not include the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation or any entity chartered and operating under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 [12 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.].

(D) Other secondary market institutions

Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the term "financial institution" does not include institutions chartered by Congress specifically to engage in transactions described in section 6802(e)(1)(C) of this title, as long as such institutions do not sell or transfer nonpublic personal information to a nonaffiliated third party.

(4) Nonpublic personal information

(A) The term "nonpublic personal information" means personally identifiable financial information—

- (i) provided by a consumer to a financial institution;
- (ii) resulting from any transaction with the consumer or any service performed for the consumer; or
- (iii) otherwise obtained by the financial institution.

(B) Such term does not include publicly available information, as such term is defined by the regulations prescribed under section 6804 of this title.

(C) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B), such term—

(i) shall include any list, description, or other grouping of consumers (and publicly available information pertaining to them) that is derived using any nonpublic personal information other than publicly available information; but

(ii) shall not include any list, description, or other grouping of consumers (and publicly available information pertaining to them) that is derived without using any nonpublic personal information.

(5) Nonaffiliated third party

The term "nonaffiliated third party" means any entity that is not an affiliate of, or related by common ownership or affiliated by corporate control with, the financial institution, but does not include a joint employee of such institution.

(6) Affiliate

The term "affiliate" means any company that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another company.

(7) Necessary to effect, administer, or enforce

The term "as necessary to effect, administer, or enforce the transaction" means—

(A) the disclosure is required, or is a usual, appropriate, or acceptable method, to carry out the transaction or the product or service business of which the transaction is a part, and record or service or maintain the consumer's account in the ordinary course of providing the financial service or financial product, or to administer or service benefits or claims relating to the transaction or the product or service business of which it is a part, and includes—

- (i) providing the consumer or the consumer's agent or broker with a confirmation, statement, or other record of the transaction, or information on the status or value of the financial service or financial product; and
- (ii) the accrual or recognition of incentives or bonuses associated with the transaction that are provided by the financial institution or any other party;

(B) the disclosure is required, or is one of the lawful or appropriate methods, to enforce the rights of the financial institution or of other persons engaged in carrying out the financial transaction, or providing the product or service;

(C) the disclosure is required, or is a usual, appropriate, or acceptable method, for insurance underwriting at the consumer's request or for reinsurance purposes, or for any of the following purposes as they relate to a consumer's insurance: Account administration, reporting, investigating, or preventing fraud or material misrepresentation, processing premium payments, processing insurance claims, administering insurance benefits (including utilization review activities), participating in research projects, or as otherwise required or specifically permitted by Federal or State law; or

(D) the disclosure is required, or is a usual, appropriate or acceptable method, in connection with—

- (i) the authorization, settlement, billing, processing, clearing, transferring, reconciling, or collection of amounts charged, debited, or otherwise paid using a debit, credit or other payment card, check, or account number, or by other payment means;
- (ii) the transfer of receivables, accounts or interests therein; or
- (iii) the audit of debit, credit or other payment information.

(8) State insurance authority

The term "State insurance authority" means, in the case of any person engaged in providing insurance, the State insurance authority of the State in which the person is domiciled.

(9) Consumer

The term "consumer" means an individual who obtains, from a financial institution, financial products or services which are to be used primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, and also means the legal representative of such an individual.

(10) Joint agreement

The term "joint agreement" means a formal written contract pursuant to which two or more financial institutions jointly offer, endorse, or sponsor a financial product or service, and as may be further defined in the regulations prescribed under section 6804 of this title.

(11) Customer relationship

The term "time of establishing a customer relationship" shall be defined by the regulations prescribed under section 6804 of this title, and shall, in the case of a financial institution engaged in extending credit directly to consumers to finance purchases of goods or services, mean the time of establishing the credit relationship with the consumer.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §509, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1443.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This subchapter, referred to in text, was in the original "this subtitle", meaning subtitle A (§§501–510) of title V of Pub. L. 106–102, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1436, which is classified principally to this subchapter. For complete classification of subtitle A to the Code, see Tables.

The Commodity Exchange Act, referred to in par. (3)(B), is act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 369, 42 Stat. 998, which is classified generally to chapter 1 (§1 et seq.) of Title 7, Agriculture. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1 of Title 7 and Tables.

The Farm Credit Act of 1971, referred to in par. (3)(C), is Pub. L. 92–181, Dec. 10, 1971, 85 Stat. 583, which is classified generally to chapter 23 (§2001 et seq.) of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2001 of Title 12 and Tables.

SUBCHAPTER II—FRAUDULENT ACCESS TO FINANCIAL INFORMATION

§6821. Privacy protection for customer information of financial institutions

(a) Prohibition on obtaining customer information by false pretenses

It shall be a violation of this subchapter for any person to obtain or attempt to obtain, or cause to be disclosed or attempt to cause to be disclosed to any person, customer information of a financial institution relating to another person

- (1) by making a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation to an officer, employee, or agent of a financial institution;
- (2) by making a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation to a customer of a financial institution; or
- (3) by providing any document to an officer, employee, or agent of a financial institution, knowing that the document is forged, counterfeit, lost, or stolen, was fraudulently obtained, or contains a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation.

(b) Prohibition on solicitation of a person to obtain customer information from financial institution under false pretenses

It shall be a violation of this subchapter to request a person to obtain customer information of a financial institution, knowing that the person will obtain, or attempt to obtain, the information from the institution in any manner described in subsection (a).

(c) Nonapplicability to law enforcement agencies

No provision of this section shall be construed so as to prevent any action by a law enforcement agency, or any officer, employee, or agent of such agency, to obtain customer information of a financial institution in connection with the performance of the official duties of the agency.

(d) Nonapplicability to financial institutions in certain cases

No provision of this section shall be construed so as to prevent any financial institution, or any officer, employee, or agent of a financial institution, from obtaining customer information of such financial institution in the course of—

- (1) testing the security procedures or systems of such institution for maintaining the confidentiality of customer information;
- (2) investigating allegations of misconduct or negligence on the part of any officer, employee, or agent of the financial institution; or
- (3) recovering customer information of the financial institution which was obtained or received by another person in any manner described in subsection (a) or (b).

(e) Nonapplicability to insurance institutions for investigation of insurance fraud

No provision of this section shall be construed so as to prevent any insurance institution, or any officer, employee, or agency of an insurance institution, from obtaining information as part of an insurance investigation into criminal activity, fraud, material misrepresentation, or material nondisclosure that is authorized for such institution under State law, regulation, interpretation, or order.

(f) Nonapplicability to certain types of customer information of financial institutions

No provision of this section shall be construed so as to prevent any person from obtaining customer information of a financial institution that otherwise is available as a public record filed pursuant to the securities laws (as defined in section 78c(a)(47) of this title).

(g) Nonapplicability to collection of child support judgments

No provision of this section shall be construed to prevent any State-licensed private investigator, or any officer, employee, or agent of such private investigator, from obtaining customer information of a financial institution, to the extent reasonably necessary to collect child support from a person adjudged to have been delinquent in his or her obligations by a Federal or State court, and to the extent that such action by a State-licensed private investigator is not unlawful under any other Federal or State law or regulation, and has been authorized by an order or judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §521, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1446.)

§6822. Administrative enforcement

(a) Enforcement by Federal Trade Commission

Except as provided in subsection (b), compliance with this subchapter shall be enforced by the Federal Trade Commission in the same manner and with the same power and authority as the Commission has under the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act [15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.] to enforce compliance with such Act.

(b) Enforcement by other agencies in certain cases

(1) In general

Compliance with this subchapter shall be enforced under—

(A) section 8 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act [12 U.S.C. 1818], in the case of—

(i) national banks, and Federal branches and Federal agencies of foreign banks, by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency;

(ii) member banks of the Federal Reserve System (other than national banks), branches and agencies of foreign banks (other than Federal branches, Federal agencies, and insured State branches of foreign banks), commercial lending companies owned or controlled by foreign banks, and organizations operating under section 25 or 25A of the Federal Reserve Act [12 U.S.C. 601 et seq., 611 et seq.], by the Board;

(iii) banks insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (other than members of the Federal Reserve System and national nonmember banks) and insured State branches of foreign banks, by the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; and

(iv) savings associations the deposits of which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, by the Director of the Office of Thrift Supervision; and

(B) the Federal Credit Union Act [12 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.], by the Administrator of the National Credit Union Administration with respect to any Federal credit union.

(2) Violations of this subchapter treated as violations of other laws

For the purpose of the exercise by any agency referred to in paragraph (1) of its powers under any Act referred to in that paragraph, a violation of this subchapter shall be deemed to be a violation of a requirement imposed under that Act. In addition to its powers under any provision of law specifically referred to in paragraph (1), each of the agencies referred to in that paragraph may exercise, for the purpose of enforcing compliance with this subchapter, any other authority conferred on such agency by law.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §522, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1447.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, referred to in subsec. (a), is title VIII of Pub. L. 90–321, as added by Pub. L. 95–109, Sept. 20, 1977, 91 Stat. 874, which is classified generally to subchapter V (§1692 et seq.) of chapter 41 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1601 of this title and Tables.

Section 25 of the Federal Reserve Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1)(A)(ii), is classified to subchapter I (§601 et seq.) of chapter 6 of Title 12, Banks and Banking. Section 25A of the Federal Reserve Act is classified to subchapter II (§611 et seq.) of chapter 6 of Title 12.

The Federal Credit Union Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(1)(B), is act June 26, 1934, ch. 750, 48 Stat. 1216, which is classified generally to chapter 14 (§1751 et seq.) of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1751 of Title 12 and Tables.

STATUTORY NOTES AND RELATED SUBSIDIARIES

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Functions vested in Administrator of National Credit Union Administration transferred and vested in National Credit Union Administration Board pursuant to section 1752a of Title 12, Banks and Banking.

§6823. Criminal penalty

(a) In general

Whoever knowingly and intentionally violates, or knowingly and intentionally attempts to violate, section 6821 of this title shall be fined in accordance with title 18 or imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both.

(b) Enhanced penalty for aggravated cases

Whoever violates, or attempts to violate, section 6821 of this title while violating another law of the United States or as part of a pattern of any illegal activity involving more than \$100,000 in a 12-month period shall be fined twice the amount provided in subsection (b)(3) or (c)(3) (as the case may be) of section 3571 of title 18, imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §523, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1448.)

§6824. Relation to State laws

(a) In general

This subchapter shall not be construed as superseding, altering, or affecting the statutes, regulations, orders, or interpretations in effect in any State, except to the extent that such statutes, regulations, orders, or interpretations are inconsistent with the provisions of this subchapter, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency.

(b) Greater protection under State law

For purposes of this section, a State statute, regulation, order, or interpretation is not inconsistent with the provisions of this subchapter if the protection such statute, regulation, order, or interpretation affords any person is greater than the protection provided under this subchapter as determined by the Federal Trade Commission, after consultation with the agency or authority with jurisdiction under section 6822 of this title of either the person that initiated the complaint or that is the subject of the complaint, on its own motion or upon the petition of any interested party.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §524, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1448.)

§6825. Agency guidance

In furtherance of the objectives of this subchapter, each Federal banking agency (as defined in section 1813(z) of title 12), the National Credit Union Administration, and the Securities and Exchange Commission or self-regulatory organizations, as appropriate, shall review regulations and guidelines applicable to financial institutions under their respective jurisdictions and shall prescribe such revisions to such regulations and guidelines as may be necessary to ensure that such financial institutions have policies, procedures, and controls in place to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of customer financial information and to deter and detect activities proscribed under section 6821 of this title.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §525, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1448.)

§6826. Reports

(a) Report to the Congress

Before the end of the 18-month period beginning on November 12, 1999, the Comptroller General, in consultation with the Federal Trade Commission, Federal banking agencies, the National Credit Union Administration, the Securities and Exchange Commission, appropriate Federal law enforcement agencies, and appropriate State insurance regulators, shall submit to the Congress a report on the following:

(1) The efficacy and adequacy of the remedies provided in this subchapter in addressing attempts to obtain financial information by fraudulent means or by false pretenses.

(2) Any recommendations for additional legislative or regulatory action to address threats to the privacy of financial information created by attempts to obtain information by fraudulent means or false pretenses.

(b) Annual report by administering agencies

The Federal Trade Commission and the Attorney General shall submit to Congress an annual report on number and disposition of all enforcement actions taken pursuant to this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 106–102, title V, §526, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1448.)

§6827. Definitions

For purposes of this subchapter, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) Customer

The term "customer" means, with respect to a financial institution, any person (or authorized representative of a person) to whom the financial institution provides a product or service, including that of acting as a fiduciary.

(2) Customer information of a financial institution

The term "customer information of a financial institution" means any information maintained by or for a financial institution which is derived from the relationship between the financial institution and a customer of the financial institution and is identified with the customer.

(3) Document

The term "document" means any information in any form.

(4) Financial institution

(A) In general

The term "financial institution" means any institution engaged in the business of providing financial services to customers who maintain a credit, deposit, trust, or other financial account or relationship with the institution.

(B) Certain financial institutions specifically included

The term "financial institution" includes any depository institution (as defined in section 461(b)(1)(A) of title 12), any broker or dealer, any investment adviser or investment company, any insurance company, any loan or finance company, any credit card issuer or operator of a credit card system, and any consumer reporting agency that compiles and maintains files on consumers on a nationwide basis (as defined in section 1681a(p) of this title).

(C) Securities institutions

For purposes of subparagraph (B)—

- (i) the terms "broker" and "dealer" have the same meanings as given in section 78c of this title;
- (ii) the term "investment adviser" has the same meaning as given in section 80b-2(a)(11) of this title; and
- (iii) the term "investment company" has the same meaning as given in section 80a-3 of this title.

(D) Certain persons and entities specifically excluded

The term "financial institution" does not include any person or entity with respect to any financial activity that is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission under the Commodity Exchange Act [7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.] and does not include the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation or any entity chartered and operating under the Farm Credit Act of 1971 [12 U.S.C. 2001 et seq.].

(E) Further definition by regulation

The Federal Trade Commission, after consultation with Federal banking agencies and the Securities and Exchange Commission, may prescribe regulations clarifying or describing the types of institutions which shall be treated as financial institutions for purposes of this subchapter.

(Pub. L. 106-102, title V, §527, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1449.)

EDITORIAL NOTES

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Commodity Exchange Act, referred to in par. (4)(D), is act Sept. 21, 1922, ch. 369, 42 Stat. 998, which is classified generally to chapter 1 (§1 et seq.) of Title 7, Agriculture. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see section 1 of Title 7 and Tables.

The Farm Credit Act of 1971, referred to in par. (4)(D), is Pub. L. 92-181, Dec. 10, 1971, 85 Stat. 583, which is classified generally to chapter 23 (§2001 et seq.) of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2001 of Title 12 and Tables.

ATTACHMENT B
COPY OF
THE TRADE REGULATION RULE ON
IMPERSONATION OF GOVERNMENT
AND BUSINESSES
16 C.F.R. Part 461

This content is from the eCFR and is authoritative but unofficial.

Title 16 — Commercial Practices

Chapter I — Federal Trade Commission

Subchapter D — Trade Regulation Rules

Part 461 Rule on Impersonation of Government and Businesses

§ 461.1 Definitions.

§ 461.2 Impersonation of government prohibited.

§ 461.3 Impersonation of businesses prohibited.

PART 461—RULE ON IMPERSONATION OF GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESSES

Authority: Authority: 15 U.S.C. 41 through 58.

Source: 89 FR 15030, Mar. 1, 2024, unless otherwise noted.

§ 461.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

Business means a corporation, partnership, association, or any other entity that provides goods or services, including not-for-profit entities.

Government includes federal, state, local, and tribal governments as well as agencies and departments thereof.

Materially means likely to affect a person's choice of, or conduct regarding, goods or services.

Officer includes executives, officials, employees, and agents.

§ 461.2 Impersonation of government prohibited.

It is a violation of this part, and an unfair or deceptive act or practice to:

- (a) materially and falsely pose as, directly or by implication, a government entity or officer thereof, in or affecting commerce as *commerce* is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 44); or
- (b) materially misrepresent, directly or by implication, affiliation with, including endorsement or sponsorship by, a government entity or officer thereof, in or affecting commerce as *commerce* is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 44).

§ 461.3 Impersonation of businesses prohibited.

It is a violation of this part, and an unfair or deceptive act or practice to:

- (a) materially and falsely pose as, directly or by implication, a business or officer thereof, in or affecting commerce as commerce is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 44); or
- (b) materially misrepresent, directly or by implication, affiliation with, including endorsement or sponsorship by, a business or officer thereof, in or affecting commerce as commerce is defined in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 44).